(c) whether the World Bank has agreed to provide financial assistants to anul Tamil Nadu for the said purpose, and

(a) if so, by when the nnancial assistance is likely to be provideu-.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Government or Tamil Nadu has sougnt assistance ot World Bank for upgraajng the State road network to manage the growing trarric intensity besides reconstructing and renaoilitating the distressed bridges and cuuverts. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 880 crores. The exact amount of World Bank funding may be knovim only after the components to be in eluded in the project are identified 0n completion of striategic option study.

(d) It is too early to indicate the time at this stage.

Appointment of agents by SCI

4686. SHRI P. UPENDRA: WiU the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(ft) the number of agents appointed by the Shipping Corporation pf India all over the country and the details thereof;

(b) what are the guidelines the Corporation has fixed for lappoint-ment of these agents, and since when thess agents have been operating at various ports;

(c) whether there is any proposal to lappoint additional agents for any of the ports, in view of the increased exports and imports, and to encourage young entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, the details tiiereof?

THE MINISTER QF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Shipping Cor. poration; of India has appointed 10 agents at various Indian ports, viz. Gujarat, Karwar, Jawahar Lai Nehru Port,-Pondicherry, Mangalore, Cochin, Kaki-' nada, Nagapattnam, Masulipatnam, AUepey, Quilon, Tuticorin, Calicut, Telli-charry, Rameshwaram, Vizag & Cudda-lore. Besides, SCI has also appointed a,gents at some Inland Container Depots (ICDs.).

(b) SCI contacts some reputable agency houses for the appointment of agents. The factors which are considered for appoint-ment as agimts are sound financial position professional expertise, experience, cargo generating/handling capacity, manpower, availability of physical infrastructure, etc. The existing 10 agnts were appointed by SOI from time to time since 1961.

(c) and (d) The appointment of agents by SCI is a continuous process, depending on the trade-patterns.

Letters written by M.P.s to the Ministry of Surface Transport

4687. SHRI MOHAMMAD AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliamnt to the Ministry during the period from Ist April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995;

(b) what is the number of letters acknowledged out of them;

(c) what is the number of letters in respect of which final replies were sent: and

(d) what is the break-up of final letters issued by the Ministry containing positive and negative replies, respectively?